

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 1. (Currently Amended) A file-storage server system for a computer having a processor;
2 and a memory ~~coupled to the processor, and a system bus to which the processor and~~
3 ~~memory are coupled, the computer being configured to implement a file system, the file~~
4 storage server system comprising:

5 (A) a storage operating system adapted to be executed by the processor;

6 (B) a removable nonvolatile memory device coupled to ~~the~~ a system bus, the
7 removable nonvolatile memory device containing diagnostics code for the system; and

8 (C) a set of boot instructions resident in the ~~file~~-storage server system includ-
9 ing instructions for executing a normal boot routine upon a power-on of the system, and
10 including instructions enabling the processor to identify the removable nonvolatile mem-
11 ory device and to load the diagnostics code into the memory in response to a command to
12 execute a diagnostics boot routine instead of the normal boot routine, the command gen-
13 erated by the storage system upon a failure of the normal boot routine.

1 2. (Original) The system as defined in claim 1 wherein the removable nonvolatile
2 memory device is a compact flash, the compact flash being divided into a plurality of par-
3 titions with the diagnostics code residing in at least one of the partitions.

1 3. (Original) The system as defined in claim 2 wherein one of the partitions of the com-
2 pact flash is designated as a maintenance log into which test results and data are stored.

1 4. (Currently Amended) The system as defined in claim 2 further comprising:

2 (A) ~~a~~an input/output device coupled to the system bus, and which input/output
3 device is identifiable by the processor; and

4 (B) a second bus coupled between the input/output device and the compact
5 flash in such a manner that when the processor identifies the input/output device, the
6 compact flash is, in turn, initialized and the diagnostics code is executed upon a com-
7 mand to run a diagnostics boot routine.

1 5. (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

2 (A) a storage adapter coupled to the system bus; and
3 at least one storage disk coupled to the storage adapter and containing files served by the
4 operating system.

1 6. (Currently Amended) ~~A file server system for a computer having a processor, and a~~
2 ~~memory coupled to the processor, and a system bus to which the processor and memory~~
3 ~~are coupled, the computer being configured to implement a file system, the file server~~
4 system comprising:

5 (A) a storage operating system adapted to be executed by the processor;

6 (B) a removable nonvolatile memory device coupled to ~~the~~a system bus, the
7 removable nonvolatile memory device containing diagnostics code for the system;

8 (C) a set of boot instructions resident in the ~~file~~-server system including in-
9 structions for executing a normal boot routine upon a power-on of the system, and includ-
10 ing instructions enabling the processor to identify the removable nonvolatile memory de-
11 vice and to load the diagnostics code into the memory in response to a command to exe-
12 cute a diagnostics boot routine instead of the normal boot routine, the command gener-
13 ated by the storage system upon a failure of the normal boot routine;

14 (D) a storage adapter coupled to the system bus;

15 (E) at least one storage disk coupled to the storage adapter and containing files
16 served by the operating system; and

17 (F) a plurality of storage disks coupled to the storage adapter and data on the
18 disks being stored in a write anywhere file layout system.

1 7. (Original) The system as defined in claim 1 further comprising a motherboard upon
2 which the processor, the memory and the set of boot instructions reside.

1 8. (Original) The system as defined in claim 7 wherein the removable nonvolatile
2 memory device containing the diagnostics code is resident external to the motherboard,
3 and the diagnostics code on the removable nonvolatile memory device is adapted to be
4 upgraded or amended free of taking the system out of service.

1 9. (Previously Presented) The system as defined in claim 1 wherein said diagnostic
2 code includes code relating to the diagnostics of hardware devices including the proces-
3 sor, the memory, the buses, the adapters, the disks, a compact flash and interfaces
4 thereof.

1 10. (Original) The system as defined in claim 1 wherein said boot instructions reside in
2 firmware.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A method of performing diagnostics in a file-storage server
2 system, the file-storage server system having a processor, and a memory ~~coupled to the~~
3 ~~processor and having memory locations addressable by the processor, a storage operating~~
4 ~~system adapted to be executed by the processor, system firmware containing instructions~~
5 ~~for power on self tests, a set of boot instructions including instructions for executing a~~

6 | ~~normal boot routine upon a power-on of the system after the power-on self test is com-~~
7 | ~~pleted~~, the method comprising the steps of:

8 | (A) providing a removable nonvolatile memory device interfaced with ~~the a~~ moth-
9 | erboard, the removable nonvolatile memory device being identifiable to the processor;

10 | (B) dividing the removable nonvolatile memory device into separate memory par-
11 | titions;

12 | (C) storing a set of diagnostics instructions, being a diagnostics code, in one of the
13 | partitions of the removable nonvolatile memory device; and

14 | (D) programming ~~the a~~ system firmware to recognize a user implemented com-
15 | mand entered through a command line interface, the command entered during the normal
16 | boot routine for a diagnostics boot such that in response to the diagnostics boot com-
17 | mand, the firmware loads the diagnostics code residing in the removable nonvolatile
18 | memory device into the memory to execute a diagnostic boot routine instead of a normal
19 | boot routine.

1 | 12. (Original) The method as defined in claim 11 including the further step of

2 | (E) maintaining, in a separate partition of the removable nonvolatile memory
3 | device, a maintenance log into which diagnostic test results data and data about the stor-
4 | age system are stored.

1 | 13. (Original) The method as defined in claim 11 including the further step of:

2 | selecting as the removable nonvolatile memory device, a compact flash.

1 | 14. (Original) The method as defined in claims 11 including the further step of:

2 selecting as the removable nonvolatile memory device a personal computer (PC)
3 card.

1 15. (Original) The method as defined in claim 11 including the further step of:
2 upgrading the diagnostics code without taking the file server out of service.

1 16. (Currently Amended) A storage system ~~for a computer configured to implement a~~
2 ~~file system, the storage system having a processor, and~~ a memory ~~coupled to the proces-~~
3 ~~sor and having memory locations addressable by the processor, a system bus to which the~~
4 ~~memory and the processor are coupled, an operating system adapted to be executed by~~
5 ~~the processor, system firmware containing instructions for power-on self tests and a set of~~
6 ~~instructions for executing a normal boot routine upon a power-on of the system after a~~
7 ~~power-on self test is completed,~~ the storage system comprising:

8 (A) means for storing a set of diagnostics instructions comprising diagnostics
9 code, in a removable nonvolatile memory device coupled to ~~the~~ a system bus, the remov-
10 able nonvolatile memory device being identifiable to the system; and

11 (B) means for executing the diagnostics code in response to a diagnostics boot
12 command received by system firmware, the command generated by the storage system
13 upon a failure of the normal boot routine.

1 17. (Original) The storage system of claim 16 further comprising:

2 means for coupling the removable nonvolatile memory device to the processor in
3 such a manner that the diagnostics code may be upgraded without taking the storage sys-
4 tem out of normal service.

1 18. (Original) The storage system of claim 17, further comprising:
2 means for upgrading the diagnostics code by interfacing with the storage system
3 through an associated input/output interface.

1 19. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium operating on a computer in a
2 network that includes one or more storage systems sharing volumes, the computer-
3 readable medium including program instructions for performing the steps of:

- 4 (A) initiating a power-on self test when the computer is powered-on;
- 5 (B) identifying devices present in the computer;
- 6 (C) in response to a successful power-on self test, commencing a normal boot
7 routine;
- 8 (D) recognizing a command for a diagnostics boot, the command generated by
9 the storage system upon a failure of the normal boot routine;
- 10 (E) in response to the diagnostics boot command, probing devices to locate a
11 removable nonvolatile memory device containing diagnostic boot instructions; and
- 12 (F) interrupting the normal boot routine and executing the diagnostics code for
13 a diagnostics boot for the computer.

1 20. (Original) The computer readable medium as defined in claim 19 including the fur-
2 ther instruction to identify a compact flash as the removable nonvolatile memory device
3 in which diagnostics code for the computer is stored.

1 21. (Original) The computer readable medium as defined in claim 20 including further
2 instructions to save diagnostics test results and other data in a predetermined address lo-
3 cation in the compact flash associated with the computer.

1 22. (Original) The computer readable medium as defined in claim 21 wherein the diag-
2 nostics boot command is initiated by a human maintenance operator.

1 23. (Original) The computer readable medium as defined in claim 21 wherein the diag-
2 nostics boot command is initiated as an instruction in the computer readable medium
3 upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

1 24. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic system for use with a storage system comprising:
2 a removable nonvolatile memory device interconnected with the storage system,
3 wherein the removable nonvolatile memory device containing boot diagnostic code that
4 is loadable into the storage system as an alternative to a normal boot routine when the
5 storage system generates a command to boot diagnostic code upon a failure of the normal
6 boot routine.

1 25. (Original) The diagnostic system of claim 24, wherein the removable nonvolatile
2 memory device further comprises a plurality of partitions.

1 26. (Original) The diagnostics system of claim 25, wherein the boot diagnostic code is
2 contained within a first partition of the plurality of partitions.

1 27. (Original) The diagnostic system of claim 26, wherein the removable nonvolatile
2 memory device further comprises a second partition, the second partition storing a diag-
3 nostic log.

1 28. (Original) The diagnostic system of claim 24, wherein the removable nonvolatile
2 memory device is a PC card.

1 29. (Original) The diagnostic system of claim 24, wherein the removable nonvolatile
2 memory device is a compact flash.

1 30. (Original) The diagnostic system of claim 24, wherein the storage system further
2 comprises a firmware boot routine, the firmware boot routine having a process for select-
3 ing between execution of either a normal boot routing or a diagnostic boot routine.

1 31. (Currently Amended) A ~~file-server system for a computer having a processor, and a~~
2 ~~memory coupled to the processor, and a system bus to which the processor and memory~~
3 ~~are coupled, the computer being configured to implement a file system, the file server~~
4 system comprising:

5 (A) a storage operating system adapted to be executed by the processor;

6 (B) a removable nonvolatile memory device coupled to ~~the~~ a system bus, the
7 removable nonvolatile memory device containing diagnostics code for the system, the
8 removable nonvolatile memory device also divided into a plurality of partitions with the
9 diagnostics code residing in at least one of the partitions; and

10 (C) a set of boot instructions resident in the ~~file~~-server system including in-
11 structions for executing a normal boot routine upon a power-on of the system, and includ-
12 ing instructions enabling the processor to identify the removable nonvolatile memory de-
13 vice and to load the diagnostics code into the memory in response to a command to exe-
14 cute a diagnostics boot routine instead of the normal boot routine, the command gener-
15 ated by the storage system upon a failure of the normal boot routine.

1 32. (Original) The system of claim 29 wherein one of the partitions is designated as a
2 maintenance log into which test results and data are stored.

1 33. (Original) The system of claim 29 further comprising:
2 a separate storage medium, the separate storage medium storing a boot routine.

1 34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 33, wherein the separate storage medium
2 is a partition on the removable nonvolatile memory device.

1 35. (Currently Amended) A computer having a processor and a main memory, the com-
2 puter comprising:

3 a non-removable non-volatile memory device containing a boot mechanism firm-
4 ware, the boot mechanism firmware configured to provide a normal boot routine and se-
5 lect a first logical drive to boot from;

6 a user command line interface configured to allow a user to enter a command to
7 run a diagnostic routine; and

8 a removable non-volatile memory device storing the diagnostic routine, at least a
9 portion of the removable non-volatile memory device configured as a second logical
10 drive, the boot mechanism firmware configured to, in response to the user's command,
11 select the second logical drive to boot from and load the diagnostic routine into main
12 memory.

1 36. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 35 wherein the at least a portion of
2 the removable non-volatile memory device is a memory partition of the removable non-
3 volatile memory device.

1 37. (Currently Amended) The computer of claim 35 further comprising:

2 an additional portion of the removable non-volatile memory configured to store a
3 maintenance log generated by the diagnostic routine.

1 38. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer of claim 37~~ A computer having a processor and
2 a main memory, the computer comprising:

3 a non-removable non-volatile memory device containing a boot mechanism firm-
4 ware, the boot mechanism firmware configured to provide a normal boot routine and se-
5 lect a first logical drive to boot from;

6 a user interface configured to allow a user to enter a command to run a diagnostic
7 routine;

8 a removable non-volatile memory device storing the diagnostic routine, at least a
9 portion of the removable non-volatile memory device configured as a second logical
10 drive, the boot mechanism firmware configured to, in response to the user's command,
11 select the second logical drive to boot from and load the diagnostic routine into main
12 memory; and

13 an additional portion of the removable non-volatile memory configured to store a
14 maintenance log generated by the diagnostic routine, wherein the additional portion of
15 the removable non-volatile memory is an additional memory partition that is configured
16 as a third logical drive.

1 39. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 35 further comprising:

2 a file system for accessing logical drives, the file system configured to upgrade or
3 modify contents of the removable non-volatile memory while the computer is online by
4 accessing the removable non-volatile memory as a drive.

1 40. (Previously Presented) The computer of claim 35 wherein the removable non-
2 volatile memory device is a compact flash.

1 41. (Currently Amended) A method for performing diagnostics on a computer having a
2 processor and a main memory, the method comprising the steps of:

3 configuring a boot mechanism firmware to provide a normal boot routine;

4 | providing a user-command line interface to allow a user to enter a command to
5 interrupt the normal boot routine and run a diagnostic routine, the diagnostic routine
6 stored on a removable non-volatile memory, at least a portion of the removable non-
7 volatile memory device configured as a logical drive; and

8 selecting, in response to the user's command, the logical drive to boot from and
9 loading the diagnostic routine into main memory.

1 42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of:

2 partitioning the removable non-volatile memory device into a plurality of memory
3 partitions such that the at least a portion of the removable non-volatile memory device is
4 a memory partition.

1 43. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of:

2 configuring an additional portion of the removable non-volatile memory to store a
3 maintenance~~maintenance~~ log generated by the diagnostic routine.

1 44. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 43 further comprising the step of:~~
2 method for performing diagnostics on a computer having a processor and a main mem-
3 ory, the method comprising the steps of:

4 configuring a boot mechanism firmware to provide a normal boot routine;

5 providing a user interface to allow a user to enter a command to interrupt the
6 normal boot routine and run a diagnostic routine, the diagnostic routine stored on a re-
7 movable non-volatile memory, at least a portion of the removable non-volatile memory
8 device configured as a logical drive;

9 selecting, in response to the user's command, the logical drive to boot from and
10 loading the diagnostic routine into main memory;

11 configuring an additional portion of the removable non-volatile memory to store a
12 maintenance log generated by the diagnostic routine;

13 ~~partitioning the removable non-volatile memory device into a plurality of memory~~
14 ~~partitions such that the additional portion of the removable non-volatile memory is an~~
15 ~~additional memory partition; and~~

16 configuring the additional memory partition as a third logical drive.

1 45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of:

2 modifying the contents of the removable non-volatile memory while the computer
3 is online by accessing the removable non-volatile memory as a drive.

1 46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the removable non-volatile
2 memory device is a compact flash.

1 47. (Currently Amended) A computer having a processor and a main memory, the com-
2 puter comprising:

3 a non-removable non-volatile memory device containing a boot mechanism firm-
4 ware, the boot mechanism firmware configured to provide a normal boot routine and se-
5 lect a first logical drive to boot from;

6 | a user-command line interface configured to allow a user to enter a command to
7 interrupt the normal boot routine and run a diagnostic routine; and

8 a removable non-volatile memory device storing the diagnostic routine, at least a
9 portion of the removable non-volatile memory device configured as a second logical
10 drive, the boot mechanism firmware configured to, in response to the user's command,
11 select the second logical drive to boot from and load the diagnostic routine into main
12 memory.

1 48. (Currently Amended) A computer having a processor and a main memory, the com-
2 puter comprising:

3 a boot mechanism firmware configured to provide a normal boot routine;

4 a removable non-volatile memory, at least a portion of the removable non-volatile
5 memory device configured as a logical drive and configured to store a diagnostic routine;
6 and

7 | a user-command line interface configured to allow a user to enter a command to
8 interrupt the normal boot routine the user interface configured to, in response to the
9 user's command, select the logical drive to boot from and load the diagnostic routine into
10 main memory.

1 49. (Previously Presented) A computer having a processor and a main memory, the
2 computer comprising:

3 means for providing a normal boot routine;

4 means for allowing a user to enter a command to interrupt the normal boot routine
5 and run a diagnostic routine, the diagnostic routine stored on a removable non-volatile
6 memory, at least a portion of the removable non-volatile memory device configured as a
7 logical drive; and

8 means for selecting, in response to the user's command, the logical drive to boot
9 from and loading the diagnostic routine into main memory.

1 50. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium containing executable program
2 instructions for performing diagnostics on a computer, the executable program instruc-
3 tions comprising program instructions for:

4 providing a normal boot routine;

5 providing a command line~~user~~ interface to allow a user to enter a command to in-
6 terrupt the normal boot routine and run a diagnostic routine, the diagnostic routine stored
7 on a removable non-volatile memory, at least a portion of the removable non-volatile
8 memory device configured as a logical drive; and

9 selecting, in response to the user's command, the logical drive to boot from and
10 loading the diagnostic routine into main memory.

1 51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising:

2 (D) the set of boot instructions configured to boot the system from a logical drive
3 associated with the removable nonvolatile memory device.

1 Please add new claims 52 *et al.*

1 52. (New) A computer having a processor and a main memory, the computer compris-
2 ing:

3 a non-removable non-volatile memory device containing a boot mechanism firm-
4 ware, the boot mechanism firmware configured to provide a normal boot routine;

5 a removable non-volatile memory device partitioned into a first and a second
6 logical drive, the first logical drive storing the diagnostic routine, the boot mechanism
7 firmware configured to select the first logical drive to boot from and load the diagnostic
8 routine into main memory; and

9 the second logical drive configured to store a maintenance log generated by the
10 diagnostic routine.

1 53. (New) The computer of claim 52, wherein the boot mechanism firmware is config-
2 ured to select the first logical drive upon a command generated by the computer upon a
3 failure of the normal boot routine.

1 54. (New) A method for performing diagnostics on a computer having a processor and a
2 main memory, comprising:

3 configuring a boot mechanism firmware to provide a normal boot routine;

4 providing a removable non-volatile memory device partitioned into a first and a
5 second logical drive, the first logical drive storing the diagnostic routine, the boot mecha-
6 nism firmware configured to select the first logical drive to boot from and load the diag-
7 nostic routine into main memory; and

8 storing a maintenance log generated by the diagnostic routine in the second logi-
9 cal drive.

1 55. The method of claim 54, further comprising:

2 selecting, by the boot mechanism firmware, the first logical drive upon a com-
3 mand generated by the computer upon a failure of the normal boot routine.

1 56. (New) An apparatus to perform diagnostics on a computer having a processor and a
2 main memory, comprising:

3 means for configuring a boot mechanism firmware to provide a normal boot rou-
4 tine;

5 means for providing a removable non-volatile memory device partitioned into a
6 first and a second logical drive, the first logical drive storing the diagnostic routine, the
7 boot mechanism firmware configured to select the first logical drive to boot from and
8 load the diagnostic routine into main memory; and

9 means for storing a maintenance log generated by the diagnostic routine in the
10 second logical drive.

1 57. (New) The apparatus of claim 56, further comprising:

2 means for selecting, by the boot mechanism firmware, the first logical drive upon
3 a command generated by the computer upon a failure of the normal boot routine.

1 58. (New) A computer readable medium containing executable program instructions for
2 performing diagnostics on a computer having a processor and a main memory, compris-
3 ing:
4 configuring a boot mechanism firmware to provide a normal boot routine;
5 providing a removable non-volatile memory device partitioned into a first and a
6 second logical drive, the first logical drive storing the diagnostic routine, the boot mecha-
7 nism firmware configured to select the first logical drive to boot from and load the diag-
8 nostic routine into main memory; and
9 storing a maintenance log generated by the diagnostic routine in the second logi-
10 cal drive.